

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of September 8 - September 12, 2008**

1. **Register Now!:** Recreation programs start on Monday, September 15. If you have not registered for your favorite class, please do so before the start of classes.  
(Recreation)

2. **Takoma Park Elementary School Addition Planning Board Discussion (City-Wide):** The Takoma Park Elementary School addition Mandatory Referral Planning Board review hearing, at which the Planning Board listens to community comments and discusses recommendations on the planned addition for consideration by Montgomery County Public Schools, will be held September 18 at 1 PM (Item 11). To view the agenda and staff recommendations see:  
<http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2008/agenda20080918e.html>. To check for compliance with City recommendations, see 99 percent landscape and grading construction plans posted on the City website [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).  
(Housing and Community Development)

3. **Sick of Signs? (City-wide):** We are! We are particularly sick of the illegally posted "street spam" you see on utility poles, bus shelters and in the public right of way. So much so that the City is hosting its first "Sick of Signs" week in Takoma Park during the week of September 20 through 27 when local residents will be awarded for their efforts to rid our community of illegal and unsightly signs. Consider forming a "Sick of Signs" team with other like minded folks and competing for prizes for the most illegal signs collected, the ugliest, most colorful, etc. For more information, check online at [http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/sos\\_handbill.pdf](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/sos_handbill.pdf) and learn how you - and your neighbors - can get involved. (Housing and Community Development)

4. **Volunteers needed for the New Hampshire Avenue Clean-Up! (Wards 3, 2, & 6):** Councilmembers Doug Barry, Colleen Clay and Dan Robinson and The Housing and Community Development Department are hosting a New Hampshire Avenue Clean-up on September 27 from 10-12 AM. It will be followed by a SOS - Sick of Signs party at the Community Center. Sign up to volunteer for a specific location by contacting Paul-Harvey Weiner at (301) 891-7220. (Housing and Community Development)

5. **Purple Line Update (Wards 5 and 6):** Staff attended a Purple Line meeting last Friday. The draft environmental impact statement regarding the alternative alignments will be issued in September. In order for the State to apply for the next round of Federal funding for engineering on the project, the Secretary of Transportation for Maryland will make a final decision on the alignment and phasing of the project in December 08. This will keep the project on track for construction in 2012-2015, despite the budget shortfalls recently announced by the State. To assist in making that decision, Public Hearings will be held in the first weeks of November. Support by neighborhoods and other organizations will be important as the testimony at these hearings will assist not only the Secretary of Transportation but will be considered by County Councilmembers. There are two additional projects that Maryland has the option of submitting for federal funding, one of which is in Montgomery County, and one of which is in Baltimore. (Housing and Community Development)

6. **Community Gardens and Greening Project - Accepting Applications (Wards 2, 3 and 6):** HCD staff is continuing to accept applications for the New Hampshire Avenue

Corridor - Community Gardening and Greening Project. For more information, contact Paul Grenier at 301-891-7220 or [pgrenier@takomagov.org](mailto:pgrenier@takomagov.org). (*Housing and Community Development*)

**7. Conga Drumming at Wednesday's Crossroads Market! (Ward 6):** Yusef Douglin will be performing at the Crossroads Farmer's market September 17 from 3 - 7 PM, across from the Post Office on Holton Lane. The Crossroads Farmers Market hosts musicians every week. The market accepts Food Stamps, WIC & Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons and provides a variety of fresh locally grown or produced international foods for a diverse, growing community. For more information, call 301-445-4368 or e-mail [crossroadsmarket@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadsmarket@gmail.com). (*Housing and Community Development*)

**8. Junction Function Business Meeting (Ward 3):** The SS Carroll Association's Sub-Committee on the future of Takoma Junction hosted a meeting on Tuesday, September 9 which considered the concerns and needs of the businesses located in the Junction. HCD staff attended, providing information on planned improvements in the area, parking restrictions and permitting opportunities. Representatives from Old Takoma Business Association / Takoma Main Street and Historic Takoma, Inc. also participated in the meeting. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**9. Exhibits at the Community Center:** Three exhibits are on display at the Community Center this month. Currently hanging in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the building, is the work of artists participating in Pyramid Atlantic's summer internship program. The exhibit includes a variety of original prints, paper assembles, and handmade books created this past summer. The exhibit runs through the end of the month when it will be replaced with a weekend display titled "Recycle, Rethink, Recreate", a flower exhibit organized by students from the Sangetsu School of Ikebana. In Gallery 3, on the third floor of the Community Center, the photography of Sam Kittner is featured. "A Year in Old Takoma", was organized by the Old Takoma Business Association and includes photographs of local businesses in unusual and occasionally wacky settings. An opening reception is planned for next Friday, September 19, from 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**10. Solicitation of Activities for Arts and Humanities Day:** Would you like to share your interests and talents with the community? The Arts and Humanities Commission will be celebrating the "creative spirit of our community" on Saturday, October 18 when it hosts its second annual Arts and Humanities Day celebration. Planned activities will include lectures, film screening, hands on workshops, performances, readings, classes, an art exhibition and much more. If you are interested in becoming involved in organizing the event, wish to perform, or would like to host an activity, please contact the Commission at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org). (*Housing and Community Development*)

**11. Accepting Applications for Exhibitions Curator:** The Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting applications for an experienced individual to coordinate exhibition activities at the Community Center. Responsibilities include the solicitation and review of exhibit proposals, assisting exhibitors in logistical activities; and curating one show of curatorial and community interest. Applicants should have experience working on exhibition projects and coordinating with volunteers. The selected applicant would serve one year. The Directorship is not a paid position; though an honorarium of \$2,000 will be awarded. Deadline for applications is Tuesday, September 30. For more

information, please contact the Commission at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or call 301.891.7224. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**12. Call for Poetry:** The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting poets for the 2008-2009 "third Thursday" poetry series. The series will begin this winter and will feature some of the finest poets in the city and surrounding area. To be considered for a spot in the series, please send 3-5 poems to the Commission at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org). Submission deadline is Tuesday, September 30. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. 2008 Homeowner's Property Tax Credit Program Deadline Extended to October 31 (City-wide):** The deadline for submitting an application for the Homeowner's Tax Credit Program has been extended to October 31, 2008. The program is designed to help low-moderate income home owners by limiting the amount that they must pay in property taxes. To receive the tax credit, an application and all supporting documentation must be sent to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation each year. To obtain an application, contact Linda Walker at 301- 891- 7222 or by email at [LindaW@takomagov.org](mailto:LindaW@takomagov.org). The application is also available online at [www.dat.state.md.us/](http://www.dat.state.md.us/). *(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. Tenant Rights in Takoma Park Class - September 16 (City-wide):** The Landlord-Tenant Office staff will sponsor a class on Tuesday, September 16, from 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Topics to be covered include security deposits, entry, lease requirements, rent stabilization and the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law. Tenants interested in forming a tenant association in their buildings are encouraged to attend. To register, please call 301-891-7222 or e-mail [LindaW@takomagov.org](mailto:LindaW@takomagov.org). *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. First Time Home Buyer Class - October 4 (City-wide):** If you are interested in becoming a homeowner at some point in the near future, you will definitely be interested in attending this class. You will learn about the importance of pre-purchase counseling, establishing and maintaining your credit, understanding the credit scoring system and how to obtain a mortgage. Attendees will receive a certificate that satisfies the first time home buyer class that is required by the state and county low interest loan programs. The class will be conducted in English from 8:30 A.M. -1:30 P.M. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. To register or for further information, please call 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**16. Summer Quest:** This year's SummerQuest summer reading program ended with a gala celebration for participants and their families on September 8th. More than 50 people discussed their favorite reading with Karen MacPherson and Dave Burbank, shared projects made during their 'quest', received free books and enjoyed refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library. All in all 207 kids were enrolled in SummerQuest, 132 read at least one book, and 33 kids finished the program. A total of 1,051 books were read by participants and at least 10 kids read 20 books or more! *(Library)*

**17. Bilingual Circle Time:** On Saturday, September 6, more than 30 children and caregivers braved the elements and attended a Bilingual Circle Time presented by Karen MacPherson and Library Assistant Lucia Acin. Regrettably, Lupe Marks will no longer be doing Spanish Circle Time on Thursday mornings, and we are hoping to be able to provide alternatives in future months. *(Library)*

18. **In Be-Tweens:** Our new Tween Craft Club, a monthly program for middle schoolers which is supported by the Friends of the Library, begins Friday September 12 at 3:30. Pre-registration is required. *(Library)*

19. **Banned Books:** The Banned Books Club next meets on Monday September 15th. at 7:30 pm. for a discussion of "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger. Books are provided by the Friends of the Library. Pre-registration required. *(Library)*

20. **The Reading Group:** The Friends Reading Group meets Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. for a discussion of Pulitzer Prize winner "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz. Books provided by the Friends of the Library. All are invited. *(Library)*

21. **Babies 'R' Us:** Lapsit programs for babies under 12 months and their grown-ups are held each Wednesday in September at 10:00 a.m [except for September 17]. Preregistration is required. Please visit [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or call 301-891-7259. *(Library)*

22. **Festival Coverage:** City TV staff will be out on Sunday, September 14 at the 31st Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival covering all the stages all day. *(City TV)*

23. **NATOA Annual Event:** Next week, Communications Office staff will be attending the annual National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors conference in Atlanta, Georgia. *(City TV)*

24. **Back to School:** Recreation Manager Carey Antoszewski attended Piney Branch Elementary School's "Back to School Night" on September 11. She greeted parents and students and disseminated promotional materials for recreation programs that were available for kids in that age group. *(Recreation)*

25. **Day Laborer Field Trip:** As part of the transition activities to encourage individual day laborers to use--once it opens this fall--the Prince George's County day laborer worker center at the University/New Hampshire intersection, the City of Takoma Park and CASA de Maryland sponsored a field trip to the CASA worker center at Shady Grove on Friday. Fourteen day laborers were transported to the Shady Grove center to learn how the center works and to learn about training programs and social services available at the worker centers. Lunch was provided. The goal is to demonstrate the advantages of going through worker centers to look for work, rather than waiting along public streets. It is hoped that the information on the worker centers will begin to be spread to other day laborers by word of mouth. Three other bus trips are planned to try to get the word out to day laborers unfamiliar with worker centers. *(Deputy City Manager)*

26. **Officers in Meetings:**

- On September 8, Capt. Coursey attended a Governor's Grant Conference at the University of Maryland in College Park.
- On September 10, Capt. Edward Coursey met with Commander Brown and the Safe Takoma staff for a status meeting on their program; Ms. Cathy Plevy attended a meeting with the "Keeping it Safe" and "Red Ribbon Week" committee regarding the upcoming Community Forum on Underage Alcohol and Red Ribbon Launch events on October 22,

at Takoma Park Middle School; and, CSAFE staff, along with Lt. Richard Bowers, attended the Walk to School Planning meeting at Piney Branch Elementary School.

- On September 9-11, Captain Ed Coursey, along with CSAFE staff, attended the Takoma/Langley Crossroads CDA meeting and the Montgomery County Grant Planning meeting coordinated by the Washington Metro Region Highway Safety Office. Capt. Coursey presented a security report for their area; Capt. Coursey attended a State Highway Administration/Montgomery County Highway Safety Task Force meeting; and, Ms. Denise Pullet met with GOCCP staff in Baltimore to discuss juvenile arrest procedures, statistics and audits.

- On September 12, Mr. Van Wagenen attended a Chesapeake Region Law Enforcement Accreditation Alliance (CRLEAA) meeting at the University of Maryland in College Park. (*Police*)

#### **27. Officers in Training:**

- On September 8 through 12, Cpls. Pedersen, Conrad and Holmes attended the "First Line Supervisor Training Program" at the Public Safety and Education Training Center in Sykesville. This training will continue through to the 19th.

- On September 9, Sgt. Frishkorn, Cpl. Carter, Cpl. Erwin, Pfc. Quante and Pvt. Robison attended a training session entitled "The Bulletproof Mind - Mental Preparation for Combat" at the Anacostia Operations Facility in Washington, D.C.

- On September 12, Sgt. Skibicki, Cpl. Largent, Pfc. Atwell and Pfc. Quante attended a training class entitled "Officer Involved Shooting" at the MPCTC Training Facility in Sykesville. (*Police*)

**28. Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 89 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, four (4) vehicle impounds, and one (1) Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrest.

#### ***During August 31 - September 10, 2008, the following details were completed:***

##### August 31, 2008

- New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway (speeding) - conducted a one and a half (1 ½) hour detail and issued four (4) state citations and one (1) warning.

##### September 1, 2008

- 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a two (2) hour detail and issued three (3) state citations, two (2) other state citations and two (2) warnings.

##### September 5, 2008

- Erskine Avenue & 13th Place (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a half (1/2) hour detail and issued one (1) state citation.

- Lockney Avenue & Hammond Avenue (traffic circle) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued two (2) warnings.

##### September 8, 2008

- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued one (1) state citation.

- New Hampshire Avenue & Larch Avenue (speeding) - conducted a one and a half (1 ½) hour detail and issued two (2) warnings.

(*Police*)

